(d) whether Government have issued any instructions to IOC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR).(a) to (c) Indian OIL Corporation (IOC) entered Into an MoU with Krishnapatnam Port Company on the 4th February 2004 for the development and implementation of a project consisting of an LNG import terminal at Krishnapatnam Port along with an integrated power project and other associated facilities, if found feasible on techno-commercial considerations. However, the proposed LNG project at Krishnapatnam Port is not being pursued by IOC since, based on a port selection study undertaken subsequently, it was found that Ennore is a more suitable port for setting up an LNG terminal.

(d) No, Sir. Such decisions are taken by companies on commercial considerations.

Booking of gas through telephone

12996. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cooking gas (LPG) is available in sufficient quantity in the country;

(b) if so, whether gas connections are made available on demand;

(c) if not, the details of measures being taken to make these connections available on demand; and

(d) whether the system of booking gas refill on telephones would be continued?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):(a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had restricted the release of new LPG connections since September 2005 because of a temporary shortage in bulk LPG availability. This temporary shortage of LPG had emerged largely on account of non-materialization of some additional LPG imports planned by the OMCs, shut down of RIL's refinery for the period from 4th October to 1st December 2005 and some unplanned shut downs of other

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

refineries/fractionators in the country during the current year. Normal production of the RIL refinery has resumed from 1st December 2005, and the backlog in LPG booking is expected to be cleared in a couple of weeks. OMCs have resumed the release of new LPG connections from 1st December 2005 onwards.

(d) The system of booking for LPG refills on the telephone is continuing.

Pipavav Power Project

2997. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Centre is concern for not being able to implement the Pipavav Power Project because of non-supply of gas despite Centre's commitment in the past;

(b) whether Government would allocate the required quantity of gas for this project from Tapti fields since the production has now started in this field; and

(c) whether the Central Government has gone back on its commitment leading to grave injustice to the Saurashtra region for whose development, this power is very crucial?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER): (a) to (c) An in-principle allocation of 2.25 MMSCMD of gas was made to the Pipavav Power Proejct on the 5th June 2000. This allocation was subject to the condition that the Management Committee (MC) of the Tapti field will take the investment decision for additional development of the field. It was also stipulated that the date of commencement of gas supply could undergo a change depending on the investment decision which was to be taken by the MC of the Tapti field. The 'in-principle' allocation was not a commitment as such but an expressive of the positive intent of the Government. It may be mentioned that gas from Additional Development of Tapti fields is not covered under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) and the price is to be determined in terms of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) between the JV and the Government. The development plan for the production of